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ERD-05845

1 June 1982

MEMORANDUM	FOR:	Deputy	Director	for	Administration
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FROM:

Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT:

SAFE

l. Reflecting on your briefing this morning and in discussions with the Science and Technology Advisory Panel on the status of SAFE, I believe that we cannot justify on the basis of the abject performance to date further reliance on _____ I am aware that we paid some educational costs and some progress may have been made on the learning curve, if nothing else. Still, I don't think we should take the risk that we could have a repetition of this abject performance, waiting another three years or so and hoping we have something shining and workable at the end of that period. I don't believe we should let the further progress on this development get out of our own hands.

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- 2. Rather, I think we should build around the pilot mail operations as the kernel of what would be necessary to meet their requirements. We should add to that existing hardware and existing software to perform other functions in a manner which deals with the real needs we know to exist here.
- 3. That is not far from the approach which I understand the audit team has recommended. The difference is that we put some accomplishment behind us before we again commit ourselves to getting overambitious, and we would not let the project get out of our own hands except to develop specific elements we believe can be done better on the outside as we go along.
- 4. Will you have formulated for me and the DDCI to review a recommendation as to internal organization, people, components of the beginning elements, successive steps, timetable, and outlay of funds to proceed along this line.

William J. Casey

cc: DDCI

Executive Director

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